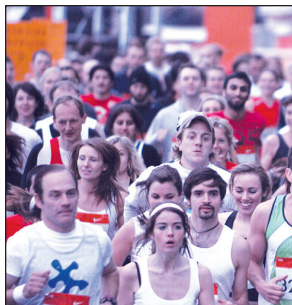


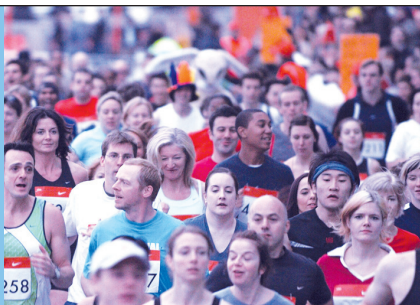


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VOLUME 130

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SHOWERS

Robbery No. 2 hits SJSU before break

On-campus muggings span five days

By **DINA BASLAN**
Staff Writer

An unidentified thief approached two female students and demanded their belongings at about 2:15 a.m. on March 19 in front of the Event Center, according to the University Police Department.

The two unidentified women were sitting on the Seventh Street Plaza benches at the time of the incidents.

One of the women turned over her belongings, and the unarmed suspect fled toward San Fernando Street, according to a robbery alert report sent by UPD on March 20.

The suspect was described by UPD as a Hispanic man in his 20s with a shaved head, about 5-feet-9-inches

tall and weighing about 200 lbs.

It was the second robbery in a five-day period, after an armed robbery took place in front of Campus Village at around 3 a.m. on March 14.

“The descriptions were not at all similar,” said UPD public information officer Sgt. John Laws about the two different burglars. “So this is not the same person doing multiple robberies.”

“We were actively investigating and looking into every avenue that we have,” he said. “But at this time, I don’t think that there is any additional information that we are able to release that would potentially jeopardize some avenue of investigation.”

Laws said no other robberies were

See **ROB**, page 2



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

Diane Quintos, an 18-year-old freshman psychology major, walks alone near the Event Center, where the March 20 robbery took place.

2008 graduates offered chance to pay forward

SJSU asks for \$20.08 from finishing students

By **JOHN ELLIS**
Staff Writer

SJSU is asking all graduating seniors to give \$20.08 back to the university before leaving, but with all of the coursework, financial situations and job-hunting, some students know little about the program.

“I haven’t put a lot of thought into it,” said Scott Cubies, a senior history and communications major. “It’s a good idea but bad timing. I put it in the back of the pile of things to do.”

The 2008 Senior Gift is designed to provide graduating students the opportunity to help future students get the same college experience they had, said Carolyn Canete, the annual giving manager in the office of de-

velopment and alumni relations.

“I won’t be donating,” said Ricardo Ramirez, a senior child development major. “I commute to school and with gas prices, and other expenses I can’t afford it.”

Canete said, “It’s a way to say thank you for the knowledge, skills and opportunities SJSU has provided.”

At a time when money may be cut from the California State University system, some seniors think it’s a good idea to look out for future students.

“When money gets cut, it’s up to us to help out other students,” said Kate Stewart, a senior art major. “I’ll try and donate, but I don’t know

See **GIFT**, page 2

INSIDE the DAILY

BASEBALL OVER THE BREAK

Spartans win three, lose five during spring vacation.

See **SPORTS**, page 7

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FICTION FANATICS

Read how some genres’ followers take to their “fandoms” like religion.

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IN CASE YOU WERE SLEEPING

Bill Clinton in San Jose? How about the now-unendangered gray wolf? Read up on news over the break — with a humorous spin.

See **OPINION**, page 9

COURSE OF THE WEEK



JESSE KIMBREL / SPARTAN DAILY

Students from Geology 105: General Oceanography gather to look into the face of a leopard shark that was brought aboard the Robert G. Brownlee vessel from the San Francisco Bay.

A sea for participation

Oceanography class cruises S.F. Bay — with a catch

By **ANDREW HERNDON**
Staff Writer

Not all online courses at SJSU are constricted to learning via computer.

Taught by Professor Don Reed, the online General Oceanography course takes students out onto the San Francisco Bay for a day of hands-on learning.

“The theme of the class is to have the students be the oceanographer,” Reed said, “not sitting passively — to a lecturer — listening about oceanography.”

The Geology 105 students embark from Redwood City aboard a 90-foot research vessel and spend about four hours on the bay, Reed said. Students have four opportunities to complete the trip, which is not mandatory.

The trip is conducted by the Marine Science Institute, and students collect data and examine specimens from the bay at four different stations situated on the ship, Reed said.

“They have three instructors onboard the ship that take the stu-

dents through the various stations,” Reed said.

The class analyzed water from the bay, examined microscopic organisms and mud, and collected fish using a trawl — a fishing net that is towed behind a boat, Reed said.

“We pulled up several (sting)rays, sharks and other fish,

See **OCEAN**, page 3

theSPARTANDAILY.com
See an exclusive slideshow of the Geology 105: General Oceanography class

Drag show slated to dress campus this week

Queer group to bring dance performance to Student Union on Friday

By **BRIANA HERNANDEZ**
Staff Writer

Adrienne Keel, a junior psychology major, said she started to dress like a man about a year ago.

“There’s a couple of characters I do just for fun,” she said. “I think it’s fun to dress up and be silly.”

Keel will dress in drag Friday for QTIP, or Queers Thoughtfully Interrupting Prejudice, and its first-ever Drag Show, which is scheduled to be held Friday in the University Room of the Student Union from 7 to 10 p.m.

QTIP will be pre-selling tick-

ets outside of the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., every day this week, for \$5. After that, tickets sold at the door will be \$7 — or \$5 if you come dressed in drag.

Derrick Quefa, co-chair of QTIP, said the drag show has seven performers so far, and the event will include dance numbers, singing, lip-syncing and possibly a comedy skit. A dance is slated to follow the show.

Quefa said the drag show has been in production for the whole of this semester and the idea for a drag show came collectively from club members.

“As soon as someone said it,”

he said, “everyone was like, ‘Oh yeah! Let’s do that.’”

As far as the performance, Quefa said that no political statements are likely to be made, as entertainment is the primary goal.

“For the most part, we just want everyone to have fun,” he said.

Megan Heher, another co-chair of QTIP, will be overseeing stage management and security for the event, but she may be obligated to perform due to an overwhelming nomination from club members.

“Last I checked, I was far in the

See **DRAG**, page 3

Business students tackle first tries at entrepreneurship

By **LIZA ATAMY**
Staff Writer

Faisal Gowani, a senior business marketing major and president of the Entrepreneurial Society, recently started running City Falafel, located on East San Fernando Street.

SJSU students like Gowani can get head starts into their entrepreneurial careers through associations such as Entrepreneurial Society and the Gary J. Sbona Business Honors Program.

Gowani said he found out about Entrepreneurial Society and the Honors Program through friends.

“I’ve been in business for a long time,” Gowani said. “I help manage my parents’ businesses, and I was a club promoter for 2-and-a-half years.

“(The society) and the honors program inspired me and made me

realize there is more within me than just running my parents’ business,” he said.

Gowani and his longtime friend and classmate Arya Azimi purchased two-thirds of City Falafel in December 2007.

Azimi, a senior business marketing major, said, “We want to start a chain, so we’re working on our second and third location.”

Gowani added, “The demand for quality food around SJSU has been growing. “Nothing around here really has the goodness of home-cooked food with fast service.”

Azimi was involved in business before his recent purchase with Gowani.

“I started an Internet business,

See **CLUB**, page 3

Fees spark outcry

Proposed bill targets freeze for CSU, UC

By **JOHN HORNBERG**
Staff Writer

Some students seeking lower tuition are attacking the problem on two different fronts — in Sacramento and on the streets.

In response to increases that have doubled CSU tuition and dramatically increased UC tuition since 2002, an organization called Tuition Relief Now is working on both efforts, currently trying to qualify an initiative for the ballot and getting a bill passed in the California Legislature. The bill would freeze tuition at the higher education level.

The organization, according to its Web site, claims to be completely volunteer and student run.

The bill would freeze tuition in CSU and UC systems for the next five years, and would only increase at the same level as inflation, according to the organization’s Web site. It would offset the loss of funds by levying a 1 percent tax on individuals with an income of \$1 million or more, said Esther Alumba, director of student fee affairs for SJSU Associated Students.

A number of students liked the idea of what the initiative had to offer.

“None of us make a million dollars, and if we did, we wouldn’t mind giving back for education,” said Gisela Sandoval, a graduate student in social work.

“It’s costing us a lot on the back

See **BALLOT**, page 2

Yearly Increases In California State Tuition

• Tuition in 2007: \$1,386

• Projected state tuition for 2008-09 (with 10 percent increase): \$1,525

*Source: CSU Northridge Fee History

A THERAPEUTIC DAY IN THE SUN



ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

Emiko Kansawa, a senior occupational therapy student, makes physical therapy fun for her clients during the required clinical hour for her occupational therapy class. Kansawa and her classmates spent this hour near the Tommie Smith and John Carlos statues on Tuesday afternoon.

BALLOT | President Kassing says freezing fees would be devastating

Continued from page 1

end because people aren't educated," added Nicole Jordan, also a graduate student in social work and one of Sandoval's colleagues. "People open their eyes and change their philosophies by becoming educated."

President Kassing was not as enthusiastic as students were regarding the idea of a tuition freeze.

"I hope it wouldn't happen because it would just devastate (SJSU). It would be very, very harmful," he said at a news conference in March.

The current assembly bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Coto (D-San Jose), and it passed the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, said Chris Vaeth, the campaign director for Tuition Relief Now. The Legislature has looked at the issue of student tuition in the past, Vaeth added.

"Students have been frustrated that the Legislature won't pass a long-term fee solution," he said. "We want to give them another opportunity."

Even though the higher education committee passed the bill, Va-

eth said the bill is likely to have a rough time once it reaches the Assembly floor.

"The difficulty with any legislation this year is the budget," he said, adding that the group is working to make a case for the state's investment in higher education.

Alumba said 60 percent of the revenue generated by the proposed tax would go back into California's two public university systems, while the rest would go into California's other educational institutions.

"Our entire public educational system will be better off if this bill passes," Alumba said. "It would benefit everyone."

In addition to lobbying the state Legislature, the group is petitioning to qualify the same bill for the ballot in November. The petition process began mid-January, Vaeth said, with the deadline set for the third week of April.

The assembly bill and the proposed ballot initiative are the same thing, Alumba said.

"We want to keep it safe," she said. "We just need the support in just getting our name out there and making sure this passes."

Targets for the number of sig-

natures were set for each campus, Alumba said, with SJSU's set at 10,000.

The biggest obstacle facing the tuition initiative isn't the number of signatures collected, he added, but how many will be valid. Only 65 to 70 percent of people who sign the petitions for a ballot initiative are valid, Vaeth said, because people not registered to vote sign the petition, or individuals sign the petition in the wrong county.

A Look Back In Time

• Tuition in 2002 (for a full time undergraduate student at a CSU) : \$714

• Tuition in 1981: \$94.50

You can also check out www.tuitionreliefnow.org for more information.

*Source: CSU Northridge Fee History

ROB | Sergeant warns both sexes to be wary

Continued from page 1

reported since then.

"Don't be out alone at night — walk in a group," he said. "If you are concerned about your safety, go ahead and use the blue light phones or the campus phones and call for a university police escort."

Crystal Silva, a senior psychology major at SJSU, said she carries pepper spray with her at all times. She regularly visits her friends living at Campus Village, and said she leaves late most of the time.

"(Blue light phones) make me feel safe," Silva, 22, said. "And I hold onto my cell phone when I leave."

She said she thinks it is scarier for her as a woman walking on campus alone after midnight.

But Laws said he thinks men should be careful as well.

"Just because you're a man," he said "doesn't mean you are immune to being a victim of crime."

Bryan Rojas, a junior psychology major, lives three blocks away from campus.

"I feel that SJSU itself is actually pretty safe compared to a lot of other places," Rojas, 21, said. "I walk through campus at two, three in the morning, and I feel fine."

He said the past two robberies do

not cause him to worry.

"You can't live with fear," he said.

"It happens."

Becky Homan, a freshman forensic science and chemistry major, does not walk on campus alone after midnight.

"Unless I'm with people," Homan, 18, said. "But usually not."

She did say that she carries pepper spray with her ever

since she came to SJSU.

The robberies make Josh Harrison, a freshman international business major, question the safety of the school and the city, he said.

"I never thought (walking on campus at night) was a huge deal really," Harrison, 19, said. "If someone is carrying a gun around, it is a big deal."

"If someone is carrying a gun around, it is a big deal."

JOSH HARRISON
freshman international business major



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GIFT | Students may choose recipient

Continued from page 1

when the deadline is."

One student said she was annoyed about the fact that while waiting for their graduation paperwork to go through she received the Senior Gift flier.

"It comes in a super nice envelope, and I thought it was my grad papers, but it wasn't," said Shelby Jones, a senior advertising major. "If it would have come after my grad paperwork I might have donated, but not now."

Part of the Senior Gift program is that students get to pick between three SJSU linked organizations to donate to. The one with the most

votes gets all the money.

The organizations seniors choose from are: MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center Fund, which prepares students to be "advocates of diversity"; Metropolitan University Scholar's Experience (MUSE) Fund, which makes adjustment to university life easier for high school and transfer students; and the Student Emergency Fund, which helps out students involved in tragic events and crisis situations.

"I haven't had any help from other students," said Melissa Cole, a senior interior design major. "It sounds like they just want money."

Eloise Stiglitz, the associate vice president for Student Services, wrote

in an e-mail that the Student Emergency Fund was the senior's choice last year and the program has helped a number of students who have been confronted with significant emergent, expenses.

While soon-to-be graduates, friends and family have until the April 4 to donate the minimum of \$20.08, Canete said that more people are expected to give money this year than last year.

"We put up fliers all around campus," Canete said. "We're really advertising it this year."

Last year the Senior Gift program asked for \$20.07, attracted 126 donors and \$3,432 in donations. This is the second year of the program.

SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

Today

Bible study seminar: "The Biblical Message for Assessing your Image, Character, and Culture"
Africentric Theology Bible Study Series. Pastor Stephanie Ransom will moderate.
Noon at Cultural Heritage Center Room 525
Contact: Mary Lewis, mlewis@union.sjsu.edu

Lecture: "A New Frontier for Recordkeeping Education: the San Jose Master of Archives and Records Administration (MARA) Degree"
School of Library and Information Science Colloquia Series. Lori Lindberg, full-time lecturer at SJSU-SLIS, will speak.
Noon to 1 p.m. at Clark Hall Room 322
Contact: Marcia Laughrey, 924-2490, laughrey@slis.sjsu.edu

Kappa Delta Sorority Shamrock Pump Up Day
Barbecue.
3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the barbecue pits.
Contact: Jennifer, 925-437-9957

Feminist and Catholic Mass
All are welcome at the table, especially those marginalized by the church (women, LGBT, divorced or remarried, those who use birth control, those who've experienced abortions). Victoria Rue, Catholic woman priest presiding.
5:15 p.m. at Spartan Chapel.
Contact: Victoria Rue, victoria@victoriarue.com

Lecture: Investing in a Global Environment
Lucas Global Leadership Lectures. A non-U.S. view. Speakers will include Russian Investment Managers from the following companies: Troyka, KB Vozrozhdeniye, South Regional Bank, Accord Invest and Investment Group Vitus, Llp. This event is co-sponsored by the International and Extended Studies Program.
6 to 8 p.m. at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Room 225
Contact: Dr. Michael Solt, 924-3422, solt_m@cob.sjsu.edu, http://cobix.cob.sjsu.edu/graduate/lecture_series. Cost: Free

Counseling Services' First Generation College Student Workshop
First in your family to go to college? Come learn about: 1) SJSU resources that can help you succeed, 2) scholarships and how to budget your money, 3) how to balance family and social life with academics, and much more.
6 to 7 p.m. at Student Union, MOSAIC Center, Third Floor.
Contact: Veronica Mendoza or Jovina Navarro, 924-5910, cs0035@email.sjsu.edu

PRSSA Chapter Meeting: International Public Relations
Guest speaker Lou Hoffman, CEO of The Hoffman Agency, will come share insight about how to practice international public relations.
6:30 p.m. at Dwight Bentel Hall Room 225.
Contact: Ashley O'Brien, aroseobrien@aol.com

Tomorrow

29th Annual Student Research Forum
Please join the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, and the SJSU Research Foundation as we congratulate five outstanding students and their faculty mentors from the Colleges of Engineering, Science, and Social Sciences. Noon to 2 p.m. at Engineering Building Room 285/287.
Contact: Nancy Riley, nriley@foundation.sjsu.edu

Study Abroad Information Meeting
Interested in learning about the world first hand? Come to a study abroad information meeting to learn about studying abroad in one of 40 different countries, get residential credit for classes taken abroad, all while paying SJSU tuition and fees.
1 p.m. at Clark Hall Room 412.
Contact: Lisa Baum, studyabroad@sjsu.edu

Art of Living Club's Thumpin' Thursday
4:30 to 6 p.m. at Tower Lawn in front of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.
Contact: Maheen Aktar, 449-7677

Bible Study
Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible studies on Thursdays.
7 p.m. at Student Union Costanoan Room.
Contact: Justin Foon, 415-786-9873, jfoon1@yahoo.com

Kappa Delta Sorority 11th annual Shamrock Showcase Lip Synch and Dance Contest
7 to 10 p.m. at Student Union Barrett Ballroom.
Contact: Jennifer, 925-437-9957

Friday

QTIP's First Annual Drag Show and Dance
See SJSU's finest gender impersonators don their makeup and do it to it for your entertainment. They're joined by city-renowned Beyonsay and Kerri Hanna. Mix it up afterward as DJ Shay pumps out the hottest dance, house and urban jams. \$5 Pre-sale. \$7 at the door. \$5 if dressed in drag.
7 p.m. at Student Union University Room.
Contact: 510-691-1989

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sorority Car Wash
11 a.m. at KFC on Aborn Road.
Contact: Anne Rigor, 831-990-3725

Saturday

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sorority Car Wash
11 a.m. at KFC on Aborn Road.
Contact: Anne Rigor, 831-990-3725

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Megadeth
Monday, May 19
5:30 pm
Tickets: \$37.50

Student Union, Inc.
www.union.sjsu.edu
408.924.6350

For ticket information, contact
the Event Center Box Office
at 408.924.6333.

OCEAN | First-ever online class at SJSU goes hands on deck

Continued from page 1

and took the time to identify what types of fish we had caught,” wrote Dennis Stratford, a computer science major, in an e-mail.

Some students found the voyage interesting and informative.

“The field trip was fun,” wrote Lisa Nagabhushan, a senior business administration major, in an e-mail. “It was interesting to see for myself how scientists do many of the things discussed in class.”

The field trip, however, was not a sightseeing tour — it required hands-on activity.

“It was a lot more physical than I expected,” wrote Nagabhushan, 28. “(We) were actually bringing in the nets and touching the animals. I was worried about the trip, because I don’t do very well on the water, but it was fine.”

The trip is funded by a fee that students pay when registering for the course, Reed said.

According to Reed, the fee varies, but currently it is about \$40 or \$50 in addition to the cost of the course.

“San Jose State needs to pay the Marine Science Institute for use of the ship and all costs associated with the four-hour voyage,” Reed said.

Reed has taught the course almost 10 years since its inception

in Fall 1998 as SJSU’s first online class, Reed said.

According to Reed, the students must complete weekly assignments by logging into the course Web site.

“The class involves a good amount of discipline to log on and follow through with the weekly assignments,” Stratford wrote. “The amount of work planned out for each week is equal to that which you

would spend in a normal class.”

Nagabhushan said she enjoys how Reed organizes the online course.

“The best part of this class, compared to other online classes, is that Don posts videos each week in which he reminds us of upcoming assignments and lays out the topics for the week,” Nagabhushan wrote. “It’s helpful to hear the information rather than just reading it on the syllabus.”



JESSE KIMBREL / SPARTAN DAILY

Students sift through mud they gathered from the bottom of the bay, while aboard the 90-foot vessel in the San Francisco Bay.

DRAG | Event aims to promote LGBT presence

Continued from page 1

lead so I may be performing as well for one number,” she said.

Heher said the drag show will be a chance to address certain issues that QTIP may periodically overlook.

“It’s been mine and several other members’ goal to get trans(gender) issues a little bit highlighted within QTIP,” she said. “In QTIP, we focus on (lesbian, gay and bisexual) issues quite a bit, but the ‘T’ kind of

gets left off.”

Event emcee Keel said the drag show will also be an opportunity to reach out to students who have not heard of QTIP.

“I think that there’s a lot of people on campus who are still unaware there is an LGBT club on campus,” Keel said. “We want to be able to socialize with other kids on campus.

As for dressing in drag, Keel said it gives her a lot of freedom.

“I think that being a man or being a woman, it’s so confining,” she said. “You can only do this or that if

you’re a man. You can only be this way if you’re a woman. But dressing in drag is a way for you to dance on the lines of what is acceptable — to be able to defy the standard. It’s liberating.”

While the event is open to everyone, Heher said people should come with an open mind.

“There’ll be a lot of interesting things to see,” she said. “Primarily, it’s a lot of fun, and everyone should come with a good attitude. A drag show is really a unique experience.”

CLUB | Alum credits program for business

Continued from page 1

Landholders, about four years ago,” he said. “The best thing about having a business and being an entrepreneur is every time I go to class, the material makes so much sense because I can actually apply everything I’m doing.”

Fellow society member Timothy Ramon, a senior business management major, said he formed an entertainment services business, the Avila Group, in September 2007.

“I was tired of treating so many opportunities as hobbies,” Ramon said. “I knew I had aspirations to pursue entertainment after graduation and wondered how far along I could be in the business if I started early.”

Ramon said he and his friend Tyler Florence, also an SJSU student, started the business together.

“We have the capability to do anything entertainment-service related but spend the majority of our time doing artist management,” he said.

Ramon said being a member of Entrepreneurial Society was one of the main factors that inspired him to start his career early.

“I need to consider so many aspects to just get everything going,” he said. “And then try to keep it maintained — from creating simple policies, to large contracts, to protect myself. I ended up learning a lot.”

Former Entrepreneurial Society member, Summit Mahawar, an SJSU alumnus, said he graduated in December 2007 with a degree in business organization and management.

Mahawar said the program provided him with the platform to meet successful entrepreneurs and “gain insight” on starting a business.

“Through the Entrepreneurial Society, I was able to meet successful professionals such as Gary Kremen and Stuart Skorman, both of whom have been very helpful to me,” he said. “Everything, from their workshops to their speaker events, helped me gain the know-how and confidence to run my own business.”

Mahawar said he started working on his business, Mahawar Media, six months before he graduated.

places people normally have downtime, such as elevators, waiting lines and restaurant dining areas,” he said.

Mahawar said he discovered his business idea while on a trip in China with the Sbona Business Honors Program.

“I got the opportunity to see companies such as Focus Media, which had LCD screens in various locations informing people,” he said. “This was a captivating way to reach people, and I immediately thought to myself, ‘People here could benefit from this.’”

He said he has had a passion for entrepreneurship since high school and that he comes from a family of entrepreneurs.

“My father owns and operates his own medical clinic, and my uncles are large operators of fast food restaurants,” he said.

Mahawar said being part of a start-up business taught him how to deal with people.

“Starting a business truly forces you to understand every facet of business, and it teaches you discipline, agility and ingenuity,” he said. “All of these are key skills, which will help me in my future endeavors and career choices.”

“Nothing is certain but death and taxes”
- Ben Franklin

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Run, don't walk to see this film

Senior staff writer Michael Pasoa gives his take
on the film 'Run Fat Boy Run'



Photo courtesy of Ollie Upton

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I love me some running fat boys, so I was disappointed that the main character for "Run Fat Boy Run," played by Simon Pegg ("Shaun of the Dead"), wasn't even borderline plump.

The title reminds me of all the girls who say they're overweight just so guys could compliment them — so here's the skinny.

Pegg's Dennis, who isn't too reliable, was supposed to get married to his pregnant fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton), but on their wedding day he ran out, basically door-bell ditching the rest of his life with her.

Oh, so that's why "run" is in the title. I get it.

He said he didn't want to ruin her life so he ruined her big day. Damn, he sure does know how to make his mistakes sound beautiful.

Five years later, he still wants to be with her, but, gasp, there's someone

new in her life named Whit (Hank Azaria). Since this is a running movie, he's like a hurdle. On top of that, he's good with Dennis and Libby's 5-year-old son Jake.

Whit said something along the lines of "there's a difference between finding a girl like Libby, and keeping a girl like Libby."

Dennis, give up. This guy has so much game my butt cheeks could blush. The movie did a good job of making Whit seem picture perfect, but thank God he turned out to be photo-shopped.

Whit runs races as a charity sponsor, so to win Libby back, Dennis says he's going to enter the London Marathon with Whit.

Aww, running mates.

I kept telling myself, oh my God, if Dennis wins this race and magically regains Libby's love, I'm going to be mad.

But then the movie gave me a happy face because it critiqued its own idea. Libby straight up told Dennis that finishing this marathon wouldn't prove that he's ready for the long haul with her, but he ends up proving himself countless times before crossing a different kind of finish line.

Oh, I get it. The race was only a physical representation of a metaphorical journey that Dennis went through. Slick stuff.

There was a lot of running ideas that kept up the movie's pace. Dennis, who works as a security guard at a women's clothing store, ran after a cross-dressing thief who stole sexy delicacies, but the he-she got away.

Dennis' son Jake ran away after school because a girl rejected him for some other boy in his class. Dennis told Jake not to run away from his problems, and, in a "like father, like

son" moment, realized he needs to stop running away from his own.

There's some good contrast between Dennis and Whit that makes me feel bad for the not-even-fat boy.

Dennis can't pay his rent on time for his below-average-looking, basement-level apartment, while Whit's classy pad reaches the clouds like some Camelot castle in the sky. My bad, Prince Charming.

One of my favorite scenes involved a custard-looking, puss-filled athlete's foot. If anyone has a foot fetish, picture "two girls, one cup" but think "two boys, one blister." Tasty.

This is the kind of movie where I knew how it was going to end before I even got there, but I liked it for the journey and not the mystery of the destination. The only misstep was the choice of Nikes that Dennis rocked. What's good with the Air Max 90 series, though!

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“Save the cheerleader, save the world.”

—HIRO NAKAMURA, “HEROES”

Television shows, which can now reach international audiences, have united numerous viewers. Serena Trieu, a junior computer engineering major, said she has found connections with people throughout the world through the NBC television show “Heroes”.

“‘Heroes’ is interesting because of the characters’ development as the season progresses,” Trieu said. “At the end of almost every show, there’s a cliffhanger or twist.”

She said the show’s story line, which features different characters with supernatural powers in a fight to save the world, was interesting to her. She joined a forum looking for help in solving some puzzles featured in the episodes.

HeroesARG.com, one of the sites she joined, is one of the destinations she visits for discussions on the show and its alternate reality game. Her frequent visits to the site landed her a spot on the site’s staff.

“The administrator of HeroesARG had a contest for the site, and I won,” she said. “I was posting a lot of comments about news updates that the admin decided to let me become an editor.”

Along with editing the site, Trieu has also created a few banners for the site. However, she said, lately she has been awaiting the newest weekly releases of online graphic novels from the show and publishing posts on them.

“I stay up or wake up at the time the graphic novels are released (at 1 a.m.),” she said. “It’s pretty much at least an hour a day on anything ‘Heroes’ related.”

“In dreams, we enter a world that’s entirely our own.”

—ALBUS DUMBLEDORE, “HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN”

“Death is but Crossing the World, as Friends do the Seas; They live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is Omnipresent. In this Divine Glass they see face to face, and their converse is free, as well as Pure. This is the Comfort of Friends, that though they may be said to Die, yet their Friendship and Society are, in the best Sense, ever present, because Immortal.”

—MORE FRUITS OF SOLITUDE, WILLIAM PENN (1694)



Graphic courtesy of Jaymee Gulmatico

Commenting online about a popular media has become common form of communication for fans. For Jaymee Gulmatico, she uses the Internet in expressing her thoughts.

Gulmatico, a sophomore digital media major, became a fan of the “Harry Potter” book series and has shared her thoughts online on the book. She said her passion for the series continued as the story line evolved.

“The fifth book (of the seven-book series) became more of an adult book,” she said. “They matured, and I then began to write fanfiction.”

Fanfiction, a term coined for fan-written stories involving existing characters, was the centerpiece of Gulmatico’s newfound passion for the books.

In 2006, she started to write her own stories. Her first stories were submitted to Checkmated.com, where each story is reviewed before being publicly published. She would continue her fanfiction love by becoming an editor for TheQuidditchPitch.org.

“My writing was praised because of the fanfiction,” she said. Inspired by being featured on the front page of the site, she has also created banners to accompany her tales

She said fanfiction has allowed her to create an alternate story line for the books, such as shipping (putting two single characters into a fan-made relationship).

“There’s a lot of room to explore a world that’s different from your own,” she said. “People can latch on to that fantasy life.”

Rules & Regulations

Larry Sokoloff, a professor in media law, said that fans have the right to be creative, as long as they don’t profit from their work.

“Attorneys can say that the creation is cutting into profit, that it’s using someone’s work,” he said. “It depends on how much you’re making it into your own work.”

Sokoloff suggested that check-

ing the copyright rules on sites such as YouTube.com can help people figure out which fan-made creations are acceptable.

However, he said that since the Internet is still relatively new, there are still a lot of rules that aren’t in place yet.

“The corporations can’t police the Internet,” he said.

Mark Aspirella also contributed to this article.



What’s your **fantasy?**

SJSU students showcase
entertainment interests
with their creations
and online participation

Left: Brian Lai, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, shows off two lightsabers he created. Lai, who is a fan of the “Star Wars” movie series, said he owns 11 sabers, six of which he made, and goes to online forums to discuss them.

SAMUEL LAM / SPARTAN DAILY

By SAMUEL LAM
Senior Staff Writer

Every day, fans of movies, music, television shows and any other forms of entertainment use the Internet to express their appreciation for their favorite media. Whether it’s uploading a fan-made video on YouTube.com or sharing graphics on a discussion board, the Internet has become increasingly popular for fans to share their creations. Allowing other fans to interact through the Internet has given fans a new opportunity to indulge in their favorite media.

Scot Guenter, coordinator of American Studies and expert of pop culture, said that as fans are becoming more connected to their favorite forms of entertainment, they can find escape from reality.

“These simulated worlds meet very important needs for people, reinforcing perceptions of identity, appropriate or desired behavior, or particular myths or beliefs we hold dear,” Guenter said through e-mail. “I think the rise of the Internet has given many fans an opportunity to not only connect with other fans but also to create fan fiction that puts the fan into the simulated world.”

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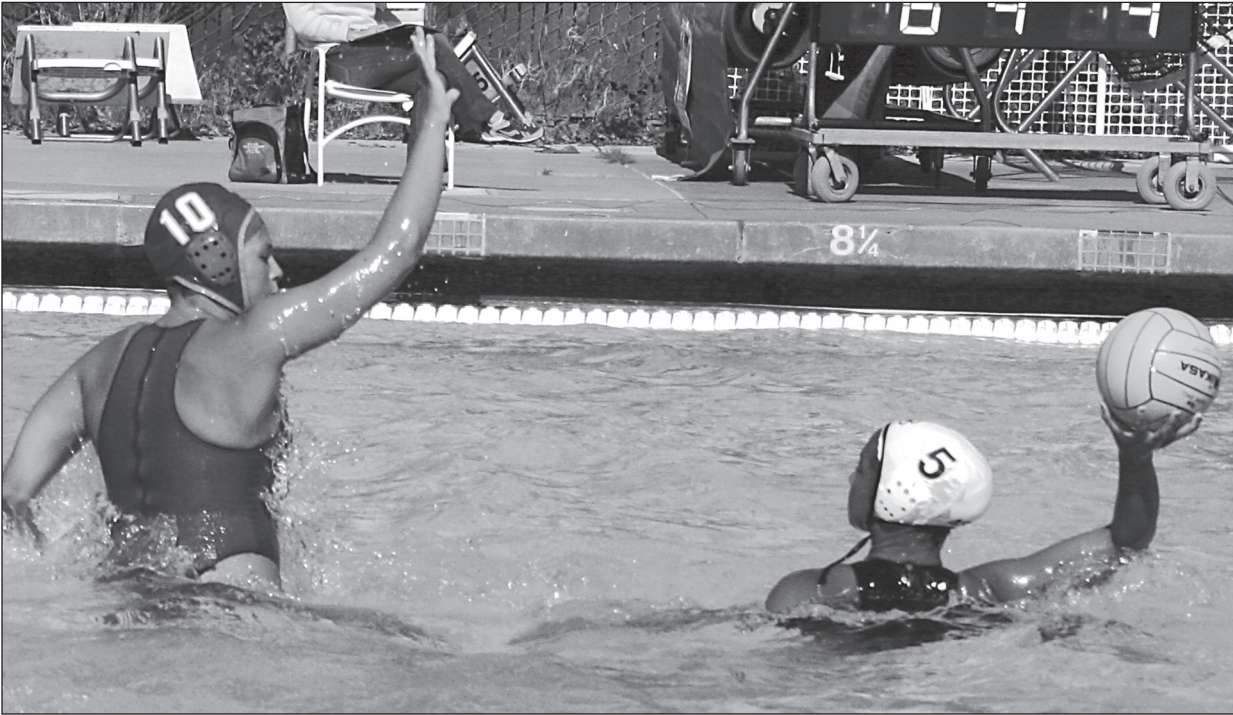
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GOLFER OF THE WEEK

Junior Erica Moston was named the Western Athletic Conference golfer of the week for the second time this season.



SJSU stuffs Long Beach State



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU's Adrianna Vogt gets in the face of Long Beach State's Branwyn Lee during Sunday's 8-5 Spartan victory. Vogt along with teammate Bridget McKee had three goals in the game. The Spartans also got goals from Brianna Lindsey and Juliet Moss — her 36th of the year. SJSU heads to Southern California this weekend to square off against CSU Northridge and USC.

Softball team plays tournament above .500

By ANGELO LANHAM
Staff Writer

Over the spring break, the SJSU softball team won four of six games during the Saint Mary's Invitational. It lost the first and last games of the six-game stretch.

SJSU's first loss came during the Friday, March 21 opener in a 1-0 defeat to Louisiana Tech University.

"We are hitting the ball extremely well, but we are hitting into some bad luck" head coach Peter Turner said in a report on the SJSU Athletics Web site after the first game.

For the next game, and the three that followed, SJSU hit into some good luck. The team upped its offense in the next two games the following day against Louisiana Tech, with a 3-1 victory, followed by a 5-2 victory for the 2 p.m. game.

They kept their momentum after a three-day rest, beating Sacramento State University 4-3 and emerging from a slugfest with Saint Mary's College 11-10 on March 29, in the first of the two final games of the tournament.

SJSU was unable to sweep the doubleheader, though, as the 2 p.m.

game had them back to square one, with an 8-5 loss to the Gaels.

While SJSU led the game 5-1 until the fourth inning, Saint Mary's scored seven runs on seven hits with one SJSU error.

"We have the talent to be successful, but for whatever reason we lose intensity with a lead, and it cost us one victory today and nearly cost us another," Turner said on the Web site's report.

SJSU's record stands at 20-20, and the team heads to Utah for a series against WAC opponent Utah State University beginning Friday.



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Dr. Glenna Matthews

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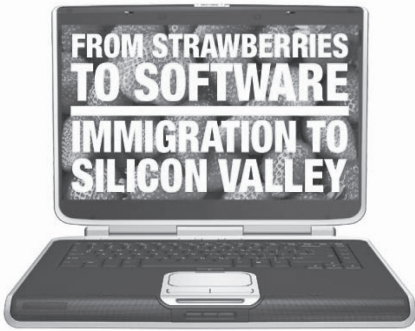
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Overview of Topics & Activities

∞ Thursday, April 10, 2008 ∞

4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Conference Welcome

Don Kassing, President of San José State University

Dr. Tim Hegstrom, Dean of the College of Social Sciences

Keynote Address

Dr. AnnaLee Saxenian, Dean of School of Information at UC Berkeley

Theater

Dr. Matthew Spangler's production of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

∞ Friday, April 11, 2008 ∞

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Conference Welcome

Don Kassing, President of San José State University

Dr. Tim Hegstrom, Dean of the College of Social Sciences

Keynote Address

Dr. Glenna Matthews

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

Session I (10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.)

- Dr. AnnaLee Saxenian's, Author Meets Critics
- The Santa Clara County of Model of Immigrant Integration
- Immigration Debates
- Undocumented Residents

- Community Practice and Research
- Overcoming Abuse and Stress
- Addressing Immigrant Educational Issues

Session II (1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.)

- Borders and Citizenship
- Best Practices in HealthCare and Educational and Pedagogical Access for Immigrants
- Generations
- Immigration Policies and Contentions
- The Intersecting Threads of Micro-Enterprise, Culture & Mental Health within Immigrant Communities: A practitioner's Perspective
- Claiming Civic Space Through Participatory Arts – A Workshop
- Asians in the American West
- Student's Perspectives: Impact of Migration and Immigration Policy in Service Work
- Community and Global Issues

Session III (3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

- Refugee & Diasporic Experiences
- Cultural Shifts
- Immigration Experiences & College Students' Mental Health Issues
- Advocating Immigrant Policies
- Student Roundtable on Recent Immigration Issues
- Using Participatory Techniques for Engaging Immigrant Communities – An interactive workshop
- Economic & Cultural Changes
- Film Presentation: POSADA by Mark McGregor

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April 13

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April 16

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Gymnastics team lands a place in the history books

By HEIDI ROMSWINCKEL-GUISE
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's gymnastics team missed first place by .200 points at the Western Athletic Conference Championships on Saturday evening. "We took second, which was pretty huge considering everybody picked us last," Head coach Wayne Wright said. "We just missed it."

The Spartans were voted to

finish last in a WAC coach's pre-season poll.

SJSU ended with a score of 194.725 just behind the Boise State University Broncos, who finished with a 194.975.

The second-place finish for the Spartans gave the team its best result at the WAC Championships in the program's 39-year history.

Senior Emily Stebbins and junior co-captain Veronica Porte were both

chosen for the All-Conference First Team, a team that represents gymnasts who finished in first or second place in their events.

Stebbins, who made the first team for the floor exercise, said she was pleased with the team's performance.

"It just felt really good to go out there and show everyone that we are a competitive and really good team," Stebbins said. "We wanted to place in the top three, and we almost got first."

Porte made the first team for the vault and second team for her routine on the balance beam.

Other second-team honorees included junior Renae Moneymaker for the uneven bars, and freshman Shanice Howard for the vault and floor exercise.

"At this point, we accomplished all of our goals this year," Wright said. "This is definitely a special year for us, and I am very proud of every single person on the team."

The Spartans next competition will be at Oregon State University on April 12 for the NCAA West Regional, Wright said.

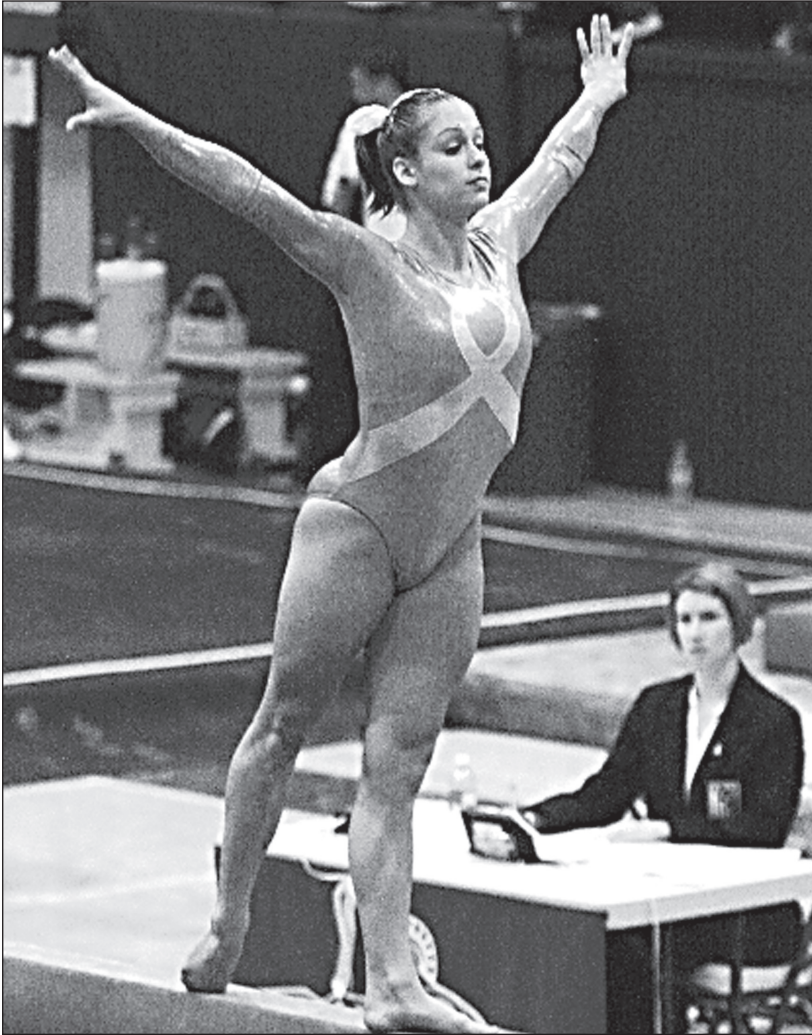
Porte said that she and the team is ready to compete in the Regionals.

"I'm more excited than nervous," Porte said. "It was the team's top goal this season, and we made it. We just want to go out there and live it up."

The fifth-seeded Spartans will compete against the University of Michigan, Oregon State, Michigan State, the University of Washington and Sacramento State University.

Wright said he did not want to be the one to set a goal for the Spartans.

"The team is more important than the individual," Wright said. "We will sit down as a team and decide what we want to do during the regional championships."



MICHELLE HORTON / SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVES

Emily Stebbins was one of four Spartans selected to all-conference teams.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP:

Spartans falter on the road; drop five conference games

By CHRIS BAUSINGER
Staff Writer

The SJSU baseball team traveled to Las Cruces, N.M., and Ruston, La., on its longest road trip of the season.

The eight-game stretch was composed of back-to-back, four-game conference series against the Aggies of New Mexico State University and the Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University.

The Spartans dropped five of the eight conference games, moving their overall record to 14-10 and their Western Athletic Conference record to 5-6.

The Spartans captured the second game of the March 21 doubleheader with a 10-8 win over the Aggies, but

couldn't muster up enough runs in the other three games in Las Cruces to beat New Mexico State.

SJSU's 7-6 loss March 20 almost ended in its favor when the Spartans scored a ninth inning run with the bases loaded, but the rally ended when they could not tie the game.

The Spartans lost the first game of the March 21 doubleheader 12-1 in a game that was called in the seventh inning under the WAC's slaughter rule.

In the final game against New Mexico State, the Spartans lost 15-9, wrapping up a disappointing trip.

SJSU continued on the second leg of its eight-game road trip with a four-games series against Louisiana Tech University. The Spartans began their trip on a winning note with an 11-6 victory over the Bulldogs on Friday, March 28.

The first inning of the game saw nine Spartans coming to the plate, five of them scoring. A balk against Bulldog starter Luke Burnett allowed junior infielder John Shaffer to score the first run of the game.

Later in the inning with two outs,

senior first baseman Sonny Garza hit a two-run double to give the Spartans a five-run lead. SJSU would tack on six more runs for its eventual victory.

Unfortunately for the Spartans, their bats cooled off overnight and couldn't be ignited in the first game of the doubleheader March 29. In the afternoon game, the Spartans could only score two runs — not enough to propel them past the Bulldogs in a 7-2 loss.

In the nightcap of the doubleheader, the Spartans and Bulldogs duked it out for 14 innings. The Bulldogs scored three times in the bottom of the 14th inning, including the game winner on a wild pitch, to take the close decision and sweep the twin bill.

The final game of the series with Louisiana Tech and the final game of the road trip was rained out, returning the Spartans home and putting them in fifth place in the WAC.

SJSU looks to improve its WAC record in a four-game conference series against the struggling University of Hawaii, starting this Friday at 6 p.m. at Municipal Stadium.

Tennis star sets school record as women's team rallies for a pair of wins

By COLLEEN WATSON
Staff Writer

The Spartan women's tennis team comes out of spring break with two wins and a loss to give them an 8-7 overall record.

SJSU trounced Cal State Bakersfield Friday, March 21, with a commanding 5-2 win. The Spartans took the lead early with wins in all three doubles matches. The top four singles players took their opponents in mostly low-scoring, two-set matches for the win.

During the match Ashley Tavita broke the school record for career

match wins (singles and doubles) after her doubles match with win No. 106, breaking Spartan alumna Rochelle Morrison's previous record of 105, which stood since the early '80s. Tavita is currently at 109 wins.

Last Saturday, the women headed to Las Vegas where they defeated Southern Utah University 5-2 in an extremely close match.

The Spartans started off winning two of the three doubles matches. In the singles play, every match went to three sets, with two of Tavita's sets being decided in tiebreakers — except for Jennifer Williams, who

defeated Kristi Latteier 6-4, 6-3.

Amber Silverstone and Silvana Dukic also took their matches.

On Sunday, the University of Idaho squeaked past SJSU for a 4-3 win. The Vandals took all three doubles matches, as well as three of the six singles matches for the win. Tavita, Silverstone and Dana Popescu won their matches.

Though SJSU lost, this was the eighth consecutive singles win for Spartan's No. 2 singles player Silverstone.

The Spartans face UC Santa Cruz at the Spartan Courts on April 8, at 2 p.m.

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LIVE NATION

Comments from our readers

The comments below refer to “Gunman robs victim at Campus Village” by Michael Pasaoa from March 17.

Darkness near Campus Village favors muggers

I visited the Campus Village one night and found three lights out in the one courtyard, another one out in the other courtyard and a street light out on San Salvador Street.

Could all this darkness have something to do with robbers hanging out in the shadows?

-Garret

Downtown San Jose has its ugly areas

I’ve seen some pretty strange and ugly stuff sometimes downtown late at night, or evidence of it afterwards in the early morning. Depends where you go, but I think I find myself agreeing with Garret about proper lighting being used as a possible theft deterrent.

Kind of makes me wonder if they’ll start offering some more self-defense classes, although, against something like a gun, there isn’t really a whole lot that an unarmed person can do.

-Luke A

the
DAILY
QUOTE OF THE DAY

“When it comes to finishing a fight, Rocky and I have a lot in common. I never quit. I never give up. And neither do the American people.”

HILLARY CLINTON

Said Tuesday to Pennsylvania delegates

For once, Mom wants me to look older



SARAH KYO

The Kyo Protocol

It sounded like a good idea at the time — sort of.

During spring break, my mom thought I needed a haircut.

My tresses were already barely at shoulder’s length, which to me, at least in recent years, is already short. Two months since my hair’s last encounter with scissors, I could finally tie it back into a halfway decent ponytail — sort of.

Better make that a My Little Ponytail.

My mom prompted me to at least get a trim and re-layer my layers.

Well, in that case, why not take the plunge — or, in this case, snip a little off of the ends. My bangs were already beginning to bother me anyway by getting in my face.

My younger sister’s reaction when I came back with my new ’do? She thought I looked like a mom. No, scratch that. She thought I looked like our mom.

Did the fact that my mom piped in her input to the hairstylist have anything to do with it?

Days after that, while attending a dinner honoring college and high school students, I wore a “mom” sweater. My sister called it a sweater that our mom would wear, rather than a 21-year-old college student.

Forget Mini-Me. My high school freshman cousin also picked up on my mommy vibe, which I vehemently denied.

This was about as awkward as that

one time, a couple years ago, when I was editor-in-chief of my community college’s newspaper and went bowling with the rest of the staff at the end of the semester. One of the staff writers revealed that she thought I was 25 years old.

My age at the time? 19.

Uh, should I have taken that as a compliment?

The staff writer quickly added, before my bowling ball could “accidentally” go waywardly in her direction, that she wasn’t referring to my appearance but rather the way that I carried myself. OK, maybe I’ll let that one slide — her comment, not the ball.

However, looking at the present, what about being told by teenagers that I look similar to a 40-something

While my mom and I have our moments of divergence, it doesn’t mean we don’t care for or love each other.

woman and not just any 40-something woman?

When you’re around my age, do you even want to be compared to your parents? I’ll get back to you on that.

In the meantime, I’ve read my share of Amy Tan novels: “The Kitchen God’s Wife”? Check.

“The Bonesetter’s Daughter”? Check.

Excerpts of “The Joy Luck Club,” not to mention watching the movie? Check.

A prominent aspect of this SJSU alumna and Chinese-American

author’s work is the relationship between women, between mothers and daughters, between Chinese immigrants and their Americanized daughters — sort of like the relationship between my mother and myself.

I can seem quiet, shy, introverted — take your pick of a synonym. I’m more talkative, expressive and open, though, when I know a person better, and that’s certainly true in the case of how I am with my family.

That also means I can lose my patience and temper with them more easily, especially in the case with my mom.

Don’t feel too bad for her: She can be just as fiery and even more overwhelming.

My dad and sister know that I’m home from college when it gets louder around the house. Maybe that’s just exaggerating. What mother and daughter haven’t had their share of occasional disagreements?

Over the weekend, my sister and I overheard my mom and her mother having one of those heated “discussions” over what turned out to be something small.

I don’t speak nor understand Cantonese, but I can pick up on tone and sound.

Nice to know having “discussions” has been passed on from one generation to the next.

Don’t get the wrong impression, though. While my mom and I have our moments of divergence, it doesn’t mean we don’t care for or love each other.

After all, isn’t reacting to someone better than indifference?

I remember being frustrated with her and her grammatical errors, when, as a grade school student, I had to help her with her ESL homework and GED prep assignments.

When I interviewed her during this past spring break for an essay, it

was interesting to learn why she had to earn her GED in the first place, as someone who emigrated from Myanmar to Macau, a then-Portuguese colony that has since been reunited with China.

At the age of 13, she chose to start over her schooling from the lowest grade level, trying to learn a new language in a new land. Having to work in a factory as a teenager, though, made getting an education a challenge.

Once she came to the United States with my dad about 20 years ago, she eventually returned to school and hasn’t looked back since.

She’s now studying accounting at a community college, while working part-time and being a wife and mother of three, including a son with autism.

I’m amazed how she — and many other women out there, as a matter of a fact — have to maintain a balancing act of roles.

So back to an earlier question: When you’re around my age, do you even want to be compared to your parents?

OK, maybe I do — sort of — resemble my mother, the person who was my first hairstylist.

Yes, she and I share some DNA, and maybe even certain personality quirks, such as possessing packrat tendencies.

Now, how about having her strength, determination and sense of self?

I’d be fortunate if I possess even a fraction of these traits. I’ll have to get back to you on that.

“The Kyo Protocol” appears every Wednesday. Sarah Kyo is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

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TUTORING/
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6	9	5	4	8	1	7	3	2
8	7	1	2	3	9	6	4	5
4	3	2	7	6	5	8	9	1
3	4	6	9	1	2	5	7	8
2	8	7	5	4	6	9	1	3
5	1	9	3	7	8	2	6	4
9	5	3	6	2	4	1	8	7
1	2	4	8	9	7	3	5	6
7	6	8	1	5	3	4	2	9

HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

					8	4		9
2					4			3
	8	3		7			6	2
					7		2	
		5	2			6	9	
	9			3				1
5	7		6		9			
		1						8

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TODAY'S
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Crystal
6 Dallas hoopsters
10 Recipe direction
14 Sitcom butler
15 Movie theater sign
16 Matador's foe
17 Prefix for red
18 "Vogue" rival
19 Lepton locale
20 Stationed
21 Wire
23 ECU issuer
25 Spinks defeater
26 Penn or Connerly
29 Singer Tori —
32 Ebbets Field great
37 One in. equals
2.54 —
38 Bede of fiction
39 Wax-tablet pen
40 Billy Ray Cyrus song (3 wds.)
43 Knitting tool
44 Milady's
45 Tie-dyed garment
46 Have a hunch
47 Rajah's consort
48 Deborah of films
49 Tome
51 Excellent
53 Get a lower price (2 wds.)
58 Clues
62 Haik wearer
63 Jacques' girl
64 Take the lid off
65 Equine mom
66 Processes cotton
67 Audacity
68 Discreet summings
69 Cartoon shrieks
70 Avarice

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

ARTS EDDA RUSK'S
NEAP COAL ELENA
TILL HOME GYROS
INCISOR CORSETS
CHESS DES
LOSERS MIDTEENS
ANODE WAVE SPAN
DIN WEARERS ERA
LOID PITS WRECK
ENCIRCLE MOUSSE
RIO RAYON
AFFECTS ONPAPER
LARCH HERA MADE
PRATE OATH OLES
SEUSS ETAS KENT

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4 Wire mesh
5 Hue
6 Intersect
7 Wheel rod
8 Luxury country homes
9 Kind of guitar
10 Marshal's badge
11 Plato's vowel
12 "It Came — Outer Space"
13 Back-fence
22 Saddle straps
24 Tight-knit team
26 Reads hastily
27 Banquet host
28 White as a sheet
30 Daisy
— Yokum
31 Old cattle town
33 Storm center
34 Buoy up

35 More confident
36 Organic compound
38 Most competent
39 Irad neighbor
41 Fabric meas.
42 Mammoth Cave loc.
47 Dorm sharer
48 More astute
50 Proverb
52 Stuck to
53 Bikini halves
54 Listener's need
55 Egg on
56 Visual signal
57 Monster's loch
59 Land parcel
60 Garroway or Winfield
61 Hurried
62 DJ gear

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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61												
62						63				64		
65							66			67		
68							69			70		

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Yes, something needs to be done about it: **21 votes**

Yes, but only for moments at a time: **13 votes**

No, it is audible but doesn't disturb class: **6 votes**

No, I don't hear any noise: **15 votes**

Stop-loss needs the red light



By **KIMBERLY TSAO**
Staff Writer

The military may be taking the term “environmentally friendly” too far. Through the stop-loss policy, or the backdoor draft, the Army is recycling soldiers, reusing them in Iraq and reducing them to nothing.

According to the Army National Guard Web site, the Army came up short by 16,823 soldiers in 2005 and 17,486 in 2006. As a result, a 2004 New York Times article stated that around 7,000 soldiers have been stop-lossed.

The aforementioned Web site stated that 2007 saw a rise, with an estimated 23,303 stop-lossed soldiers. According to the Harvard Law Review, the number was 45,000 while a caption in the movie “Stop-Loss” counted over 80,000 for the Iraq War. What’s worse is the stop-loss period can last anywhere from 12 to 24 months.

A 2004 report from the Committee on Appropriations recommended \$17.14 billion for costs related to military personnel.

If they’re spending that much, why do they have trouble meeting the soldier quota? If the budget is a gazillion times more than Julia Roberts’ salary, why does the Army need to stop-loss so many soldiers?

However inconceivable that amount is, it’s \$670 million short of what the govern-

ment proposed. If that’s the sum it takes to stop the draft and future deaths, I say that’s a good bargain.

A 2004 Washington Post article reported that 160,000 soldiers have been stop-lossed in Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. The same article stated the military plans to ship 3,500 U.S. soldiers from South Korea to Iraq.

A Selective Service spokesman mentioned a “skills-based draft,” which would stop-loss engineers, linguists and medics, among other people. No one should think this policy doesn’t concern him simply because he doesn’t know any soldiers. The Army could need your mom or your friend next.

The Army argues that stop-lossing soldiers ensures that Atlas isn’t the only one carrying the world on his shoulders. The military has received flack for allegedly targeting recruits who are minorities or from low-income families. Therefore, the draft creates a balancing act among soldiers of different ethnicities and social classes.

Others, however, would still be at a disadvantage. Legal immigrants have no choice but to enlist unless they can wait five years to be American citizens. A character in the film “Stop-Loss” is amenable to being served with the draft because if he dies in Iraq, his family attains citizenship.

About nine Congress members have children who fought in Iraq, according to a 2007 USA Today article. Maybe that’s part of the problem. Most of the other Congress

members are afraid of getting blisters from walking a mile in the shoes of Army families.

Even if soldiers’ enlistment terms are over, they can’t go home if their unit is still in the war zone, according to a 2004 New York Times article. The same article reported that the policy is a way “to promote continuity within deployed units.”

It’s war; there is no order.

Various soldiers have filed lawsuits against the policy. One was a class-action lawsuit in which only one soldier, David Qualls, was named. The seven other soldiers are “John Does” because they fear that the Army will assign them more dangerous missions should the lawsuit fail, according to the Times article.

Emiliano Santiago, who was 18 at the time of the lawsuit, enlisted to be a National Guardsman for only eight years, but his term is expected to last until Dec. 24, 2031, according to the Harvard Law

Review. Who doesn’t want to fly on Christmas Eve only to possibly make it home for the holidays?

One of the lawyers, Jules Lobel, was quoted as saying that the soldiers “were fraudulently induced to sign up ... because nothing in their enlistment contract mentioned that they might be involuntarily kept on.”

So, in the legal arena, the stop-lossed troops have a case under contract law. At the very least, they hope for temporary restraining orders pending a decision. According to one of the case documents, the commander-

in-chief can enforce stop-loss in “times of national emergency.”

Is the nation in one? I think the real emergency here is the stop-lossed soldiers.

According to a 2005 Harper’s magazine article, the Pentagon said that “more than 5,500 U.S. military personnel have deserted.” The same article stated that in 1995, there were 1,509 deserters. In 2001, that number jumped to 4,739.

Sgt. Camilo Mejia, a deserter, was sentenced to a year in jail. It looks like prisons are going to have more people than the military.

Other deserters flee to Canada or across the border. The policy is turning some of our fellow citizens into emigrants.

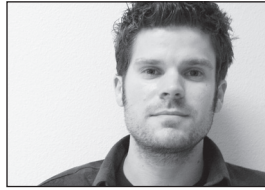
Before Sept. 11, the Army discharged most of the deserters, but now they’re sent back to their units. The superior officers consider them problem soldiers that they have to constantly supervise. If that’s the case, why keep the draft when even some military officers abhor the effects?

Troops who submit discharge applications have to wait 18 months on average, according to a 2005 article in Harper’s. Patience is a virtue for which the troops aren’t rewarded, but denied.

Our generation isn’t the only one who’s suffered the policy’s reverberations. The policy was also implemented in the Persian Gulf War.

Soldiers are calling for help — literally. In 2001, the G.I. Rights hotline received 17,000 calls, which leaped to 33,000 in 2004. The help line can’t put its phones on silent mode. Neither can we. We need to answer their calls. Unlike other life obstacles, once soldiers fall in combat, they won’t get up again.

The post-spring break news recap



By **JESSE KIMBREL**
Staff Writer

Whether you were wearing a whipped cream bikini on the beaches of Cancun or splashing around in a perk pond in San Jose, the world around all of us kept spinning during spring break.

Here’s some news you can use, in case you missed it last week.

The number of American military casualties for the war in Iraq is now more than 4,000.

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are still battling it out for who will represent the Democratic Party in the presidential race; Al Gore still seems to be the frontrunner and the only candidate strong enough to beat John McCain.

Meanwhile, Bill Clinton came to San Jose over the weekend for the State Democratic Convention to campaign for his third term as president.

Neither Obama nor Hillary Clinton were present at the convention, however. Obama went bowling in Pennsylvania and Hillary expressed her love for the Rolling Stones, which solves the mystery as to why her husband didn’t inhale. She didn’t leave him a big enough hit.

For some reason I have a feeling the next United States president will be an old white guy.

The five largest oil companies recorded a combined \$123 billion in profit last year and the executives say it’s not their fault gas prices are high, according an article on CNN.com.

Major League Baseball opened its season this week; that’s good if you

Al Gore still seems to be the frontrunner and the only candidate strong enough to beat John McCain.

root for teams that don’t play in the Bay Area.

It’s officially acceptable to use the name “Joe” in reference to a Bay Area sports figure without the last name being Montana.

Joe Thornton has scored eight goals in the past five games and is showing no signs of slowing down.

The gray wolf has been taken off the endangered species list after 35 years on the list. The wolves became endangered because cattle ranchers hunted them after the wolves were threatening their livestock. With the grey wolf population up, it’s again legal to hunt them.

If you’re a reality television fan, “The Hills” started right where it left off. Heidi and Spencer are on the rocks, Lauren and Heidi are still not speaking, and I am a loser.

The deep-voiced tough girl got the boot from American Idol and Seacrest is still “out.”

Rapper 50 Cent said he moved his support from Clinton to Obama. Does this mean Obama will get the ghetto vote?

Fox News reported that Paris Hilton vacationed in Africa with her boyfriend and said, “I love Africa in general, South Africa and West Africa. They are both great countries.”

In order to receive the Internal Revenue Service Stimulus payment, you have to file your taxes.

CNN reported that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said President George Bush should consider boycotting the opening ceremony for this summer’s Beijing Olympics to protest China’s human rights record. Good suggestion to a man who’s well respected throughout the world.

If you feel like you’re not keeping up with current events, just ask yourself one question: Have I been “Keeping up with the Kardashians?”

Y3K: Our future goes right down the tubes



DAVID ZUGNONI

Beginnings of Marathons

The problems started in 2176, the quadcentennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

New aboveground plumbing began replacing traditional plumbing in the United States after the pipes leaked and sewage polluted the ground.

The new pipes came with not just three types of water, but also with milk, orange juice, wine, beer, and the new soda Dr. Coke Negative One, which took a calorie out of people’s bodies as they drank it.

By the year 2214, the pipe system became more elaborate when Amazon.com expanded the then-obsolete milk pipes (cows became so genetically engineered that their milk became undrinkable by humans) with expansion juice (invented by the Trojan condom company, which stopped making condoms in 2156 after it was discovered that

holding your breath during sex is a much more effective contraceptive than condoms) to send music, movies, books, etc. through the pipes at lighting-fast speed.

eBayBaby, Amazon’s biggest competitor, upped the ante seven years later by expanding the then-obsolete Dr. Coke Negative One pipes (9-year-old girls were drinking it in excess to lose weight and began having health problems) to allow for the instant delivery of larger products.

The elite population in the United States began having larger and larger pipes installed for them, allowing

By 2894, Rio (which was renamed “River” in 2885) became the biggest city in the world, with a population of 178 million.

compact cars to be delivered to them in a matter of seconds so they could play bumper cars.

As a result of all this new pipe technology, plumbing became the

No. 1 business in the country.

In the meantime, 2405 to be exact, the Portuguese-Italian Republic dropped the first nuclear bomb on Fuchsialand (formerly Greenland) during a conflict over the murder of the Portuguese-Italian prime minister Andrea Bocelli XXXIV.

The bomb was stolen by American military officials and sold to the Portuguese-Italian Republic for \$730 trillion. Fortunately, the bomb was a dud.

In 2460, the Chicago Cubs basketball team won its first NBA Championship under coach LeBron James III (the Nike company froze him back in 2052 after he tore ligaments in his knee, and then thawed him out in 2339).

The Chicago Cubs baseball team wouldn’t win its first World Series until 2567, but the championship title was stripped away due to a gambling scandal.

Fast-forward to 2723, when upkeep on the new pipe system became too tall an order (it was the orange juice that did it) and all the plumbing companies crumbled.

The economy followed, springing what would become known as the Even Greater Depression.

The United States, which then was home to more than 700 million people, began an inward movement

as many megasuburbs on the East and West coasts became inhabitable after the ignored plumbing problem polluted the areas.

In the year 2729, Lodgepole, S.D. became the most populated U.S. city with a record 116 million residents.

Faced with a faster movement of people than technology and public services could keep up with, Ashlee Nguyen-Cooper-Dagostino, the president of the United States, passed a bill that would send all Americans with Spanish, British, Irish, Scottish and French blood to former Argentina.

All 50 million people who were sent away, while feeling pretty insulted by the U.S. government, told their friends back home about the fresh air and good weather, and suggested they move to South America.

To the surprise of those still holding on to the American Dream, a group of about 1,000 wealthy U.S. citizens (mostly kin of former presidents) began a movement to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to start an all-new civilization.

They brought with them a fleet of 300 giant bulldozers, which turned Rio into plains and destroyed all living things in the area in about 45 minutes.

By 2894, Rio (which was renamed “River” in 2885) became

the biggest city in the world, with a population of 178 million.

Throughout the 2900s, North Americans fled to wherever possible as viruses stemming from pipe pollution infected the entire continent, killing more than 400 million people.

By 2999, the threat of viruses spreading into other areas of the planet incited widespread panic.

In various Asian locales such as former Indian, Chinese, Malaysian and Indonesian territories existed artificial complexes that were designed to protect their inhabitants from outside viruses.

Billions of people migrated to these complexes, but destroyed them when they were not let in due to overcrowding.

The casualties of the entire thing totaled more than 11 billion.

The year 3000 marked the lowest human population in history.

We just had to have those orange juice pipes, didn’t we?

“Beginnings of Marathons” appears every Wednesday. David Zugnoni is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.

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Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits from the pump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don't blame us, oil industry chiefs told a skeptical Congress. Top executives of the country's five biggest oil companies said Tuesday they know record fuel prices are hurting people, but they argued it's not their fault and said their huge profits are in line with other industries.

Appearing before a House committee, the executives were pressed to explain why they should continue to get billions of dollars in tax breaks when they made \$123 billion last year and motorists are paying record gasoline prices at the pump.

"On April Fool's Day, the biggest joke of all is being played on American families by Big Oil," Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said, aiming his remarks at the five executives sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in a congressional hearing room.

"Our earnings, although high in absolute terms, need to be viewed in the context of the scale and cyclical, long-term nature of our industry as well as the huge investment requirements," said J.S. Simon, senior vice president of Exxon Mobil Corp., which made a record \$40 billion last year.

"We depend on high earnings during the up cycle to sustain ... investment over the long-term, including the down cycles," he continued.

The up cycle has been going on too long, suggested Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo. "The anger level is rising significantly."

Alluding to the fact that Congress often doesn't rate very high in opinion polls, Cleaver told the executives: "Your

“*The biggest joke of all is being played on American families by Big Oil.*”

REP. EDWARD MARKEY
D-Massachusetts

approval rating is lower than ours, and that means you're down low."

Several lawmakers noted the rising price of gasoline at the pump, now averaging \$3.29 a gallon amid talk of \$4 a gallon this summer.

While Democrats hammered the executives for their profits and demanded they do more to develop alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar and biofuels, Republican lawmakers called for opening more areas for drilling to boost domestic production of oil and gas.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wiscon-

sin, the committee's ranking Republican, asked about what would bring lower prices.

"We need access to all kinds of energy supply," replied Robert Malone, chairman of BP America, adding that 85 percent of the country's coastal waters are off limits to drilling.

But Markey wanted to know why the companies aren't investing more in energy projects other than oil and gas — or giving up some tax breaks so the money could be directed to promote renewable fuels and conservation and take pressure off oil and gas supplies.

"Why is Exxon Mobil resisting the renewable revolution," asked Markey, noting that the other four companies together have invested \$3.5 billion in solar, wind and biodiesel projects.

Exxon is spending \$100 million at Stanford University for research into climate change, replied Simon, but current alternative energy technologies "just do not have an appreciable impact" in addressing "the challenge we're trying to meet."

The appearance Tuesday before the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was not the first time that oil executives had faced the harsh words of lawmakers frustrated over their inability to do anything about soaring oil and gasoline costs.

SJSU students answer: How have gasoline prices affected your way of life?



DAVID HANOVER
Undecided, freshman, age 18

"I don't drive anywhere really. I take the bus to school. I take the light rail. I pretty much get around for free as often as I can. I have access to my parents' cars, but I choose not to drive them because I have to pay for gas."

"I don't really go out that much, especially like driving for a distance.

Before I used to go to San Francisco on the weekends, go clubbing and stuff like that, but now I try to reduce that. I try to go to the clubs around here."

MENN MAO

Business management, senior, age 31



STELLA YUFENYUY
Nursing, senior, age 30

"Actually, it's been so difficult with my family because we all commute to work and school ... We have to cut down on most of the things we do, like groceries. We don't shop for clothes anymore. It's been really difficult. Sometimes we have to take the bus. It's very stressful."

"For my day-to-day life, since I don't have a car here on campus, it doesn't affect me here. But whenever I go home (to Orange County) ... I'm driving my brothers and sisters back-and-forth from school and stuff. With gas prices getting steeper, it's kind of really necessary to get a job to pay for it."

JENNIFER LAUBE

Meteorology, sophomore, age 20



ALEX GRIVET
Accounting, senior, age 23

"Not very. I'm a commuter, so it's more of a necessity that I drive here. It's more of just ... I have to watch my budgeting for fun things.

Overall, I haven't been resentful of the prices if that's the question. It's frustrating when something goes up in price and you don't really see why, but overall it hasn't changed my driving habits — just how I spend money on other things."

"I commute from Hollister, which in the morning it takes about an hour and 15 minutes to get here.

I schedule my classes so I only have classes on two days. It's definitely a big part of my every day life, and I have cut down on other things.

I don't go out to eat as much. I take snacks every day, so I don't go out to eat as much and shop as much."

CLAUDIA OROPEZA

Public relations, junior, age 20

- Compiled and photos by Heidi Romswinkel-Guise

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